THE MINTSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIA-TION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of T»rd hit incidents from 1983 till October, 1988 is indicated below:

1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988 upto Oct.
191	183	184	189	1TT~140	

It indicates a generally decreasing trend of bird hit incidents.

(b) 36 aircrafts of Indian Airlines were damaged due to bird strike during the period 1.1.88 to 31.10.88 and an expenditure of Rs. 159.01 lakhs was incurred in the repair of aircraft involved from January to September, 1988.

(c) Delhi, Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta,, Trivandrum, Patna; Bangalore and Jaiurare more prone to bird strike incidents.

(d) Various steps arebeing taken to eradicate bird menace to aircraft at the airports such as cutting of grass around the runway strips, spraying of insecticides, use of incinerators for burning garbage, shooting/ scaring of birds at airports, prevention of garbage dumping within and around the airports. Clearance of Murnsi arourad airportg and maintenance of to prevent clandestine slaughtering of animals, deskinning of dead animals in the openand removal of unauthorised meat and fish shops in the open within a radious of 10 Kms. around the airportg is also being done. Due to these measures, bird strikes have been contained.

Insignificant growth of tourism in the country

2314. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considering the size and rich tourist resources the country lags behind much smaller countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, etc. in tourism;

(b) whether Government have made anyindepth study in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the main causes identified for the insignificant growth in tourism as compared to the achiev-ments made by smaller countries; and

(d) what steps are being counteraplated by Government to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the programmes to promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The tourism potential of India is very high in view of its rich tourism resources. The duration of stay of tourists in India is, therefore, very long as compared to most of the neighbouring countries. The comparative estimates of tourist arrivals, average duration of stay and tourist nights spent bv foreign tourists in India and neighbouring countries are as given below.

Country	Tourist Arrivals 1986 (in thousands	Average duration ofstay(d'ws)	Total tonrist nishts spent (00)
India	1,451	29.4	32,076*
Sri Lanka	230	10.9	2,507
Malaysia	3,027	4.5	13.622
Singapore	2.902	3.5	10.157

•Excludes tourist nights spent by Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals.

(b) and (c) India has achieved a compound rate of growth of about 12.5 per cent in foreign toprist traffic to the country since 1951 excluding the nat'onaiis of Pakistan and Bang adesh. Tourism has been recognised as an important economic activity and given the recognition of an Industry only recently in India. Plan allocation for the development of this sector has also been relatively negligible over successive Plan periods.

(d) Tourism promotion is a continuous process and all changes that are taking place in the pattern of tourism are kept in view while planning for tourism development in the country. A number of schemes are also being taken up for infrastruc'ura[1] development and marketing including development of beach resorts, improvement facilities for sking, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism, augmentation of transport facilities, provision $_0$f way-side facilities on highways, development of tourist facilities along travel circuit vigorous publicity campaigns with emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of Public relations with overseas media ageneies, otc. In addition a number of incentives have been announced for attracting private investment in tourism related actvities.

Introduction of New Trains

2315. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new ei?ht trains have been introduced since lst November, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details therof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINTSTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 975/976 Bangalore-Guwahati Weekly Express, 879/980 Tirupati-Howrah Express daily, 593/954 Nan-ded-Manmad Express daily, 21/22 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Express daily, 485/486 Karjat-Khopoli Passenger daily, 363/364 Palway-New Delhi Shuttle daily, 455/456 Kakinada-Visakha-patnam Passenger daily, 355/356 Se-cunderabad- Miryalaguda Passenger daily.

High Power Committee to Monitor Implementation of the recommen-dations of Tourism

2316. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIA-TION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether a high power committee has been set up by Government to monitor the problems in implemeri-ta'ion °f recommendation of the various committees on Tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A Committee for monitoring the progress of implementation of various recommendations of the Nat'onal Committee on Tourism has been set up by the Government on 28th September, 1988 with the following composition;

1. Shri Mohammad Yunus—Chairman
2. Shri S. K. Misra Member
3. Shri G. K. Khanna Member
4. Shri Cyrus Guzder Member
5. Shri P. M. A. Hakeem Member

Reopening: of Chinese consulates General Offices at Calcutta

2317. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought for permission from India recently to reopen its Consulates General Office at Calcutta;